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THE man Governor Harriman has chosen to head the committee to investigate the state's parole system is a New York lawyer of Spanish descent with extensive experience in investigation. Mathias Figueira Correa—a dark-haired, dark-complected, huskily built six footer of 47 years—spends most of his time

Man now on corporate law, and his specialty in the ty of trying suits. News But the long professional road he has followed, leading to the office of the firm of Cahill, Gordon, Reindel & Ohl, has been studded with investigations of everything from financial fraud and black marketing to espionage and intelligence operations.

So when he tackles the job of determining how to revise the parole system to prevent such scandals as that of Joseph (Socks) Lanza, he will not be lacking in experience.

Mr. Correa—his name is pronounced in the same way as Korea, although the Spanish would pronounce the "e" like a long "a"—was born in Brooklyn, where his father was in the real estate business.

A Roman Catholic, he attended Fordham University. There he tried his hand at writing plays, a couple of which were produced by student groups at the university and one of which was produced on radio.

After college, however, he gave up the stage—"the law is too all-absorbing," he said—and went on to study at Columbia Law School, where he was an editor on The Law Review.

Met John T. Cahill

After graduation he went to work for a law firm in Manhattan where he met John T. Cahill, a lawyer about five years his senior. Their careers have since been closely linked.

When Mr. Cahill became District Attorney of New York County in 1936, Mr. Correa went along as a special assistant, working among other things on banking and financial frauds.

Three years later, when Mr. Cahill became United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Mr. Correa became his chief assistant. And in 1941 he succeeded Mr. Cahill as United States Attorney.

In World War II Mr. Correa served in the Army's military government in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. In Naples as chief prosecutor for the military government, he led a knock-down battle against black marketeers and thieves.

In mid-1944 he was recalled to Washington, transferred to the Marine Corps and assigned as a special assistant to Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal.

Among the jobs that fell to

his lot then were the ticklish relations between Mr. Forrestal and the Federal Bureau of Investigation over the Amerasia espionage case. The F. B. I., which had uncovered the leaking of secret documents to the magazine of that name, was pressing for arrests, while Mr. Forrestal advised delay for political reasons.

Studied U. S. Intelligence

After the war Mr. Correa returned to private practice in New York as a member of the same firm as Mr. Cahill. But his close relationship with Mr. Forrestal continued, and in 1948-49 he was called upon to survey this country's intelligence operations.

He and Allen W. Dulles, present head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and William H. Jackson, a wartime intelligence officer, made the survey for the National Security Council in an effort to eliminate omissions and duplications.

After Mr. Forrestal's death Mr. Correa became an executor of his estate. And from 1951 he worked on the long defense of Dillon, Read & Co., the banking firm with which Mr. Forrestal had been associated, against Government antitrust action.

Mr. Correa, who says his only escape from the law is his golf and his family, was married in 1945 to Miss Louise Kennedy. They live in R. F. N. Y., with their three daughters—Mary Elizabeth, 19; Louise, 8, and Ann, 6.

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Seasoned Investigator

Mathias F. Correa



"The law is too all-absorbing" for playwriting

(Mr. Correa at his office here yesterday)

The New York Times